

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278

File Number: 281A-NY-289758  
Date: 11/10/2004  
Time: 16:50:24  
Tape Number:  
Agent: SA MICHAEL HARTNETT

**Participants:**

JOHN DEBELLO	JD
JOHN LISCIO	JL

**Abbreviations:**

SA MICHAEL HARNETT	MH
SA JOHN PENZA	JP
Unintelligible	UI
Inaudible	IA
Phonetic	PH

/chm

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MH: This is SA Michael B. Hartnett, along with SA John Penza. The date is November the 10th, two thousand and four. The time is approximately three twenty-eight, p.m. We're going to make a consensual recording with John DeBello and John Liscio.

(Pause)

JD: Hey Mike, this is where I would normally carry my beeper. On something like this. What if I press this? What button would turn it off?

MH: Don't worry.

JP: Don't worry about it.

JD: Don't worry about it, right? Okay.

JP: If that, if the ah...

JD: Yeah, at some point (UI). Just like that.

(Movement, conversation UI)

(Car door)

(Radio)

JD: Oh, shit. (UI)

JD: Sorry, guys. I thought there was an entrance there.

(Radio - driving)

(Car door at 16:42:02, radio off; noise inside car)

(Walking on street at 16:46:43)

JD: Hi. how are you, John DeBello. John Liscio in?

UF: Yeah.

JD: Oh.

UF: Back there.

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JD: Oh, thank you.

(Pause)

(Non-pertinent conversation regarding golf)  
(Pertinent conversation begins at 16:50:16)

JL: What's going on with you, man?

JD: I don't know.

JL: How you doin'?

JD: I'm just exhausted. I'm always running...

JL: Oh. You want something to eat? Want some (UI)

JD: Nah.

JL: A bagel or something?

JD: No. Thanks.

JL: You sure?

JD: I'm exhausted. You know, I'm always running around. I was up early this morning. Doing surgery, ran to my office. It's never ending.

JL: How's your house coming?

JD: Scarsdale?

JL: Yeah.

JD: It's part of the problem. You know. Like ah, like Dee is...screwing me really.

JL: Why?

JD: Well, you know him and Dominick are friends. So why do you think my construction got held up for six months?

JL: I don't think that had anything to do with it.

JD: You don't? Why, you know Dee?

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JL: Yeah. Dee, Dee is uhm...

JD: Do you think he really disassociated himself from him or what? 'Cause I've asked you that a couple of times. You know, I just said Dee, I...just like tell me the truth. Like ah, you know. Then, then walk away from the job, I told him. I said just walk away then. Don't, but don't screw me intentionally. For, for this jerk.

JL: I don't think he's, I don't think he's even spoken to him. That's my opinion.

JD: Well supposedly, you know, Dee said some, some guys that just got out of jail? Went to see him. For money that he owed Dominick.

JL: Really?

JD: Neil. You know this guy Neil?

JL: Neil?

JD: Neil ah...Patsy's brother.

JL: It's his brother, yeah. Really?

JD: Yes. So I was panicking for awhile. I said is this guy gonna come over to my house? Knock on my door? You know? It's crazy shit.

JL: It just doesn't end.

JD: He's out of control. He's like way out of control.

JL: You know, it's funny because I was talking to ahm...ah...you know Peter Vitelli?

JD: No idea who that is.

JL: He was uhm, he's a lawyer down in Tuckahoe?

JD: Okay.

JL: And uhm...uhm...he used to handle stuff for Dominick years ago.

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JD: Okay.

JL: And he said I want no part of him.

JD: Yeah, yeah.

JL: I want no part of him. You know? So apparently uhm...Sherri walks by 'cause you know she lives on Lake Avenue. So he's outside smoking a cigarette and ah, she comes by. Uhm, she wants him to defend...help...she want, she wanted him to defend her and him against you and Joe. And he said absolutely not. I want no part of it. You know? So ah...what's happening with that (UI)?

JD: Well you know, they're still passing threats.

JL: Still?

JD: Yeah. Well he thinks when he gets out, he's gonna like ram my head into a wall or something.

JL: How it got this far? It...you know, I?

JD: It's really insane.

JL: You know I saw Joe, I saw Joe LaManna uhm...on Sunday.

JD: Mmm-hmm.

JL: Ah, you know, him too. With the ah, you know, where's it fucking end? You know with these contracts, he put, he put liens on your property too?

JD: Yeah. Put liens on my property. That's what I'm saying. Just like, the guy...

JL: So you can't even sell the property?

JD: Can't even sell it if I wanted to.

JL: Well you can.

JD: I can, but I gotta bond the lien. I gotta fight it.

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JL: Get a bond right, cause I told Joe we have one of the best bonding guys (UI) in the county.

JD: Oh yeah?

JL: Yeah.

JD: I may need him.

JL: He, he came from a big company down in Pelham.

JD: Hmm.

JL: And now he's with us and uhm, I think, I think Joe spoke to him already.

JD: Oh yeah? Huh?

JL: Yeah.

JD: It doesn't end. I just want him to go away. It's real simple. Go away. You know? You took me for money. You took Joe for money. Go away.

JL: It just

JD: You know, he, he's...

JL: (UI)

JD: ...you know what the truth is though? He set us up from the beginning. You know, we're getting words now like from his cousin Robbie Midollo ? That...

JL: Who's Robbie Midollo?

JD: ...you remember, you know Robbie Midollo? Ah, it's Dominick's cousin on Valerie's side? His first wife?

JL: With the auto body?

JD: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

JL: He got fucked too, I heard.

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JD: Yeah, he screwed him out of money. But Robbie said that when he was still friendly with him, that Dominick used the term against me and Joe as fresh meat.

JL: Fresh meat?

JD: So, he, he, he asked me to help him and little did I know I was his, I was his new mark.

JL: Patsy, new mark right, right.

JD: I was his new mark. That, that's it.

JL: (UI) Something like this because your friendship. For so long.

JD: Well that's why I, I, I helped him. You know, his mother asked me to help him. His mother asked me...

JL: Have you spoken to her?

JD: No. She hates us. She thinks, he, he turns it around like we're hurting him.

JL: Right because you threw Sherri out with the kids out of that house.

JD: Well, what was I supposed to do?

JL: You had no choice.

JD: I had no choice.

JL: You had no choice.

JD: I had no choice.

JL: Where they at least paying the bills?

JD: No, she was supposed to pay me rent that she never paid.

JL: (UI)

JD: Never paid. I mean, that's why this thing just got...to the point.

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JL: Right, right

JD: You know, it's a whole big thing. Then he tried to steal money, more money from me, like in the bank account and I just said that's it. He actually tried to steal the house too.

JL: Really.

JD: 'Cause he tried to sign it over to himself, like to Mr. DeVito. How about that.

JL: (UI)

JD: You speak with her?

JL: With who?

JD: Sherri?

JL: No.

JD: No, right? No?

JL: No.

JD: Do you see her around? No?

JL: I see her in her car.

JD: Yeah, yeah, yeah. What's she driving now? I heard a brand new Mercedes, right?

JL: A Mercedes.

JD: Yeah, nice. I bought that for her I guess. (Chuckles)

JL: What'd you do with the Mercedes that you had? The truck?

JD: I still have it.

JL: You still have it?

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JD: Yeah. I'm paying it. That's what I'm saying. I got tons of stuff. I'm like, Joe and I got stuck. We got set up and we got stuck.

JL: And you insure the car?

JD: I took the insurance off. It's just sitting in the garage until...what I'm doing is, when the lease on my car is up, then I'll use that car.

JL: Right.

JD: When it's almost up, my lease, like another two months, I'm gonna put it on the road and, and use it 'cause I'm paying for it. Unbelievable, huh?

JL: So where do you go from here?

JD: You know, I don't know. But the main thing is, well I've been speaking to Junior a little bit. You know Junior, right? Uhm.

JL: Who's Junior?

JD: What? Anthony Pittore.

JL: Oh, okay. Okay.

JD: So. We're gonna like send him a message, I just want to be left alone. That's all I want. Just leave me alone.

JL: What does he want from you?

JD: He, I think he wants to bankrupt us. I think really what happened is, we caught on to him and stopped the bleeding and he's upset about it. And the fact that I threw his wife out, makes him more upset.

JL: Right.

JD: Because when, when I went to see him in prison once, when, he said to me, he goes at the end when you finish building your house, he goes don't pay Dee the last two hundred and fifty thousand, he goes, he owes me money. He goes, give it to me. You know and I looked at him,

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dumbfounded. I'm like, how am I remotely supposed to do that?

JL: Right. Right.

JD: So. I guess...

JL: Did Dee build the whole house.

JD: Dee's building, yeah, yeah, yeah, he's building. I'm jumping in to finish though. That's a whole another long story. But uhm, I ah...

JL: He pays you your money?

JD: Oh I pay him, yeah. I'm, I don't want any arguments. What, what do I want to fight with him for? I get enough fights. I want to fight with him too?

JL: What you should've did was, there's no insurance on the house right now?

JD: Ah, yeah, there is, but that's why I'm talking to you because now the house is valued more and I gotta get insurance on it.

JL: But you knocked the house down?

JD: Yeah.

JL: And rebuilt it?

JD: Right. No, but there's insurance I think through Ralph Berardi (PH).

JL: Who's Ralph Berardi?

JD: Ah, he's the money lender. Anyway, we, we gotta get insurance now. 'Cause it's, it's now at the point where the house is ninety percent done, I need some kind of insurance on it. So that's why I said, let me call you and like get this over with. Then the other thing was, Lisa, the other day, said something like you went to Sonny, to talk to him?

JL: Me?

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JD: Yeah.

JL: No.

JD: Oh, I thought maybe you could help me get a message to him, just like leave us alone.

JL: I don't, Lisa, said that?

JD: Yeah.

JL: Lisa was in here.

JD: Yeah.

JL: I never told her that.

JD: Oh? I thought she said that.

JL: I never went to Sonny.

JD: Well, whatever, don't...

JL: No. No. I want no part of this fuckin' prick. I was telling Lisa about this fuckin' scumbag and this fuckin' claim that he had. He fuckin' killed me.

JD: Killed you? Killed me. Look at my insurance rates.

JL: I understand that.

JD: (Chuckles)

JL: But, I, the company wanted to come after me. Royal insurance, that I've been doing business with and my father, for fifty years. Forty, forty odd years. Okay? After this claim, they came to me and says, you have two choices. Either...we, we sever our ties and you rep...I have to replace a half million dollars worth of business. My whole, my number one company was Royal. Every account that I have, I have Royal and Citibank okay? Um, I was getting nice profit sharing checks at the end of the year.

JD: Sure.

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JL: Okay. because I had no claims.

JD: Oh, right.

JL: When this fuckin' claim hit, it exceeded with one house. Okay? And they came to me and said you have two choices. Either we sever our ties and no charges will be pressed against you. Or. We'll make it very difficult for you.

JD: Well why were they gonna press charges against you?

JL: They went to look at this claim...I don't know... there were a lot of fishy things going on.

JD: Tell me about it.

JL: Unbeknownst to you.

JD: Yeah, thank you.

JL: Okay. Not to have a tremendous investigation, because if I would have done something, you're the one who would've got stuck because the house is in your name.

JD: Well, yes and no because you know something?

JL: It don't matter. John DeBello, the house is in John DeBello's name, okay? Well anyway, I didn't take that route. I says, well, how can we make this go away simple and amicable? We want no part of you, they told me, after fifty fucking years of doing business with you. Ya know, My dad and, the person who built the business before my dad. There's like a seventy year history between Liscio and Royal insurance. That, that is gone now.

JD: I gotta ask you. Honestly, between me and you? How did you let him put this claim in? This guy's an idiot.

JL: How'd I let him?

JD: Yeah, you should've stopped him.

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JL: How? He calls me from Florida, okay? I was going out. I, I knew nothing about it. I'm going out to a dinner dance with my wife, okay? Like it was yesterday I remember, to ah, a club in New Rochelle. He calls me from Florida. Get over to my house, major pipe broke. Damaged the whole house. Okay, I told my wife, Doris, that I can't go. I gotta go over. I go over there, fuckin' mess. My job as, as an insurance agent is to use my vendors, so what I did was I called, you know, first of all the (UI) was there and this guy was there. Uhm, I called Crystal Restoration.

JD: Yeah, those guys with the blowers or something? I saw them, yeah.

JL: Well, that water had to come out somehow. You know? And ah, that's all I did. Uhm. You know Sonny was over, this and that, what a fucking mess. And ah, you know, I know nothing of what's going on. I see this fuckin pipe break, okay? And, and, uhm, the water's going downstairs, down to the basement. As we're sitting around that night, I don't know, around nine, ten o'clock, the boiler explodes. You know that?

JD: No I didn't.

JL: With all the water...

JD: So it's missing?

JL: ...with all the water that leaked down from that pipe, down to the boiler, my friend Lou, I left. So Mike and Lou calls me up, they go John, the fuckin' boiler just exploded. And uhm, we're sitting around having pizza there was a bang! And he goes down, the fucking smoke from the ah, you know, from the boiler, was coming up. Anyway, this whole thing had to be planned. All planned. ya know, usually, now the information that I get from you, okay, so you would call me up, you know, John I need insurance on the house, the house is this, this and this.

JD: Mmm.

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JL: Well it was totally opposite. Than what was on the application. You know? He told me it was a brick house, it was actually a wood house.

JD: How does that affect the claim though?

JL: Rates.

JD: Oh!

JL: Meanwhile, you're getting charged for brick, okay?

JD: So it's cheaper?

JL: It's cheaper. He told me there was no sprinkler system. There was no this, there was no that and there was a sprinkler system. There was a....a....you know? So they're looking at me. You know John, you misled us. You gave us the wrong information. On top of this, after they viewed, if they did come against me, they wouldn't, they wouldn't have paid the claim. They would've went fuck you. What you guys would have to do, you and Dominick, is come after me for my errors and omissions and sue me personally. Okay? It's like your doctor's insurance. Your malpractice. I have malpractice insurance myself.

JD: Yeah. Yeah.

JL: I said, look. Let's end our ties, okay? They paid the claim. Okay? Now I have to, it's a fuckin' nightmare. It's an absolute fuckin' nightmare. You know? And uhmm...then what he does, this is the best, he calls ah, he called uhm, he called the public adjustor up, Phil Mellilo. Once he does that, I'm out of the picture.

JD: Who, who's that guy, is he dirty? That guy Phil, Phil Mellilo? Dirty? What's his involvement? He's involved with those guys?

JL: I, I, yeah I would assume so. He's a public adjustor. He, he was always seen down in ahm, Rigoletto's.

JD: He's at Rigaletto's all the time?

JL: Yeah, and ah...

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JD: So he planned this from the start?

JL: Probably. Probably.

JD: You know, and he pushed me to go on vacation with him that month.

JL: Yeah?

JD: Yeah.

JL: And you didn't go?

JD: No, we did. We were in Florida. I was in Florida.

JL: So you went?

JD: I got there that day and he called me up and he said, a pipe just broke at the house. I says, what are you talking about? He goes, oh, the whole house is damaged. And then we were on the phone the whole time and ah, that was it. But I, you know, I didn't even put the claim in. He did.

JL: Of course. See, he saw dollar signs. He saw dollar signs.

JD: The truth is when I got back, I looked at it. You know what he told me? I said, how much do you think this is gonna cost, 'cause I wanted to see where he was going with this. He said, ah, fifty, a hundred thousand dollars. And the truth is, that's what it looked like to me, 'cause, tell the truth John. It wasn't that much damage.

JL: You make it that much damage. Do you understand?

JD: So, you know, I...and you know I called him for the mat and I said Dominick, are you pulling some shit here? You know what his answer to me was? He goes, no, John, he goes, I'm on probation, are you kidding me? He goes, I would never do something like this. He goes, look, the whole house is damaged. He goes, what do you want me to do? He goes, look at all my expensive furniture. I said, all, all right. And the first I

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heard, you know when the first I heard of the numbers? Remember I called you? You remember that, right?

JL: Yeah.

JD: I never knew, seven hundred thousand. John. Something's wrong with that.

JL: Yeah, and the problem is that I have no say. You understand?

JD: I wish you had alerted me of something. I would've said to the insurance company, stop. I wouldn't have put the claim in. I wish you had, whatever. It's hindsight. You know, it's hindsight.

JL: He needed, he needed to get the house done.

JD: He needed to get the house done? He could've done the house for a hundred thousand dollars.

JL: He needed to get the house done. On, on top of it, he did the construction.

JD: 'Cause I let him. (Chuckles)

JL: Because I called in, you know, Crystal Restoration, also brought in a guy, okay, and they went up, they went throughout the house, okay? And, and, uhm. He came back with an estimate a hundred thousand dollars more than what Dominick estimated. Okay? So ah. They must have made a lot of money off that fuckin' claim okay?

JD: Yeah, under my name.

JL: Under your name and his name.

JD: Yeah, 'cause he had the ah...furniture. Who has three hundred thousand dollars worth of furniture and paintings? Let's be honest.

JL: Well, I know. I know. I know. I know. I know.

JD: He's just a...

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JL: (UI) you know what made me really, this is not the first time that something happened like this. I mean this is something that's pretty major. You know? But he had a big claim up at the mansion you know? I heard and ah, you know?

JD: He did, he did it through you?

JL: Of course. You know, hah. I don't mind, you know, but I keep on taking a fucking hit. Throw me a fuckin bone once in a while, give me this, give me that, promise me, promise me (UI) you know? So, I took nothing for this hit. What really bothers me is his spreading a fucking rumor about him giving me a hundred thousand dollars.

JD: He told me that. For your cocaine habit.

JL: How fucking dare he! That fucking scumbag! He gave me a hundred, that man, you know what he gave me? Hah?

JD: What'd he give you?

JL: He paid for one night at the VIP Club with a girl that night that we all went down.

JD: Yeah.

JL: That's all he gave me! (UI)

JD: See, that was bad stuff, like, you know, I told him don't participate in that. Remember Artie Caross (PH)? I met him the first time that night. I was staying with him. I was talking with him. The next thing I know he disappears, he comes back. I was trying to be nice to the guy and I said, listen. Don't do this stuff. I said, do not do this. You know, and he goes again. And I was, I was telling everybody, do not do this.

JL: I know.

JD: Right? I was hanging, unfortunately I was hanging out with Dan Forbes, Paul Kelly. They didn't do anything and then Artie Carossa, he kept going back and forth. He went up there twice.

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JL: (Laughs)

JD: And I said, you guys are out of your minds. That's why, you know, I went two times. To those clubs with him. That time and another time when he ah, he was going away.

JL: Me too. I went twice.

JD: He tries to trap you though. Now I know that. You know?

JL: You came home with me, I think.

JD: Yeah.

JL: Yeah.

JD: Yeah. I don't get involved in that stuff.

JL: That's the only fucking thing I ever took from him. Okay? And he's telling me he, he gave me a hundred thousand? Yeah. What person gonna give a drug addict a hundred thousand dollars to put up their fucking nose? You're gonna give me money so I can buy drugs so I can do em, you fucking asshole. That fucking burns me more than anything. I don't care about this. I don't care about, but you fucking spread a rumor about me, the fucking guy that you've been fucking for the last five years? And I'm keeping (UI). Any time you needed money Dominick, you always made a fucking claim, you always made a claim, you always made a claim, yeah.

JD: He's unbelievable. Well you know what happened, when they, they tried to put another claim in at the mansion. And you know what Sherri said to Joe? She goes, just put it in. You and I will split it Joe. That's what pissed us off. We're like, you guys are out of your minds.

JL: I know Joe. I know Joseph.

JD: Did she come to you and say that to you?

JL: No.

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JD: Oh.

JL: No. I heard it through the grapevine. I heard it through Joe. Because he was there when Sherri approached him. You and Joe talk right?

JD: Yeah, no, we're fine. No, we're trying to battle this evil.

JL: (Sighs)

JD: We just want him out of our lives. It's real simple. Just, I don't even want to speak to the guy. I don't want to see him. I don't want to talk to him. I don't speak to his parents.

JL: (UI)

JD: His mother set me up. His mother. Set me up. How about that? I guess it's in the family. Was Sonny ever a bookie?

JL: You know.

JD: I'm just curious, 'cause you know, I just like...like, you know, you know, I look at his parents as like just two, you know, Italian people from Tuckahoe. Like we had dinner there.

JL: Right.

JD: Now, I look at Sonny as, I'm not sure what he really was.

JL: I think Son...I think Sonny worked for Dominick. And Dominick told him what to do and, and, and, Sonny was a gopher. You know?

JD: But was he a bookie when we were growing up, or anything like that?

JL: No.

JD: No?

JL: He was a janitor.

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JD: He had two jobs. And he always had money, John, let's be honest. Let's be honest. He always had new cars, you know.

JL: Right.

JD: Back in the seventies and...

JL: Maybe. Maybe. Maybe. So where do you go from here?

JD: I know. You know, I was talking to Junior. He said Dom put another claim in for one point eight million. Is that true? I can't have that hanging out there. I just need to know if it's true or not? Junior said, I was talking to Junior the other day 'cause Junior's pissed at him too. He took Junior for money. You know, so Junior said to me, he goes, you know he got ah, he put in the seven hundred thousand, but he also put in an additional one point eight million. I said, you gotta be kidding me? I said are you sure, Junior?

JL: No.

JD: Eh, eh.

JL: What, for Brae Burn?

JD: For Brae Burn.

JL: Nah, no.

JD: Unbelievable. The same, you know, same thing Scott Circle. Right? Pipe broke. C'mon. C'mon.

JL: I know, so what'd you do with Brae Burn? Is it rented?

JD: No. Can't sell it. You know what the truth is though too? Everybody's staying away from it 'cause they think it was some Mafia guy's house. So the realtors don't even want to show it. That, that's the problem I have. Now I have this stain of Dominick DeVito and, like, true to some people in town, like they think of me and Joe as that we were involved with him. Now we were friendly with him and trying to do real estate stuff, but not involved with him.

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JL: That's what they think?

JD: Well now they think that about us and they don't want to, they don't even want to like look at some of the houses.

JL: What are you gonna do?

JD: I'm gonna try and survive as long as I can and ah, you know what my attorney says? He goes, in about six months, he goes, pick one of the houses you want to live in. The other two, you might have to let go. I'll have to claim bankruptcy and move on. What am I gonna do?

JL: How many houses are you paying for now? Two?

JD: Two and the third one coming. That I cannot afford.

JL: What, the new one?

JD: Yeah.

JL: Can't afford it?

JD: Well, no. I'm gonna refinance it and I'm gonna try and hang on to it and sell it. But I can't afford three homes. Can you?

JL: It's killing ya.

JD: Killing me. Not that my wife is such a spendthrift, but she goes to the store and sees like shoes for fifty dollars and puts 'em down.

JL: I know. You can't do it.

JD: We just don't do stuff. I mean, we can't live a normal life.

JL: And what's the other house?

JD: What about it?

JL: I thought you had the one...

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JD: I got mine. Brae Burn and Scarsdale.

JL: Oh that's right

JD: You know. You know, look, you know what I do for a living. I can more than afford my house. Three of 'em? No. Can't afford 'em.

JL: Joe's probably pulling his hair out about that fuckin' mansion up there. What the fucking hell is being built in front of it?

JD: That's a whole, that's another Dominick fiasco.

JL: Oh my god. yeah

JD: Another Dominick fiasco.

JL: Oh my god. And the problem is is that Brae Burn, is that your asking too much money

JD: Not really though.

JL: How much are you asking?

JD: Three two. That's what they're going for John.

JL: Yeah?

JD: But no one's biting right now. No one's biting. It's unbelievable.

JL: You need any information from me, you know anything else.

JD: No, the truth is, I thought maybe you had something for me for Sonny. Really. Like, no really. That's what Lisa said. She goes, she goes, John closed the door, he said something about Sonny. He went to see him. I'm just curious. You know, I'm curious to see what their side is doing. Against us. You know what I mean? That's what, I'm just curious to know. Like where, where are the, you know, you gotta understand too, for me. Where's the land mines? You know? I, I don't know what's going on here. You know, he blind,

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tell the truth. He blind sided me with this claim.  
Did, did I know this was gonna happen?

JL: I kind of thought you knew.

JD: Me? No.

JL: (UI)

JD: No. That's just completely impossible.

JL: No, wait a minute. Wait a minute. I know what you're talking about with Sonny. Sonny came in here.

JD: Okay.

JL: Not now, a little while ago.

JD: All right.

JL: And ah, ah, he come in. I mentioned nothing with you.

JD: Oh, all right.

JL: Uhm, I, I remember. All I did was bad mouth him.

JD: Dom?

JL: Yeah. And ah, (clears throat) I kind of figured he was wired.

JD: Sonny?

JL: Yeah.

JD: Why would he be wired?

JL: That's my thought.

JD: Really? Why, what was he asking you?

JL: I don't know. He goes, he goes, uhm...

JD: Why would he, does he usually come in?

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JL: No. No. And ah, and I said to him, ah, Sonny, you know I'm trying to think of what I said to him. He was telling me that something might go down. With this uhm, the insurance and ah, he said that you started something?

JD: Me?

JL: Yeah.

JD: No.

JL: No, with that procedure for a claim about...

JD: No, what happened is that the insurance company contacted me, you know, Royal.

JL: Right.

JD: I told 'em the truth, I had no, I had no idea of anything. The truth is they think that the pipe did break. Honest to God. I spoke to the attorney and I said what's going on with this case? I didn't ask...

JL: Right, but when your wife came here a few months ago, you wanted all the information...

JD: Yeah, I just wanted to know for myself, John.

JL: Right. But you didn't start anything?

JD: No, I didn't start nothing. I wanted to know for myself. What happened. 'Cause I had, I was blind sided.

JL: Right. Right.

JD: The truth is, Dan Forbes, you know, said to me something once that...

JL: Yeah, he made out, he made out like a fucking bandit too.

JD: Dan Forbes? Oh yeah.

JL: Yeah. On that claim. On your claim.

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JD: Yeah, thanks. Not you, you know what I'm saying. Like him, you know, I'm sayin Dominick. Thanks a lot.

JL: He got fucked a little bit by Dom.

JD: He got screwed, Dan? How? Well, what did Dominick do? He paid him though, you're saying? How did he make money?

JL: He took control of this whole thing.

JD: Really? Do you think I knew that stuff?

JL: I had a feeling you did.

JD: You really did?

JL: I'll be honest with you. Nah, I'm not sayin, look but I want to tell you something. I was, I was willing to get involved because I wanted to make something too.

JD: Oh you thought I was involved to make money?

JL: Yeah.

JD: No.

JL: No, no, no. No.

JD: You understand, I deal with insurance companies every day. I can't do that.

JL: No, no, no. Like we all are. Like we all are.

JD: Alright.

JL: I mean, I was, you know, I was looking at like it was going to be a fucking score for me too.

JD: Right.

JL: Okay? It turns out to I got fucked. You understand? On top of that, I lost my company. I lost my profit sharing, okay? And the day before...

JD: He doesn't give a shit about you.

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JL: No. I know that. And the day before he went away, I was up at his house. I was telling Lisa. The veins, I swear to God, the veins were popping out of my fucking neck. I was going up there to give him a beating.

JD: You should've.

JL: And Lisa was here last week and look, I still got fucking chills. 'Cause it fucking irks me. I was driving up, it was around lunch time and I was heading to the Hutch when he told me, see my father when I'm gone, my father has the money. Okay? So, you know, I think that he keeps some of the money (UI) Now I'm going well he's got the money, he don't give it to you, something wrong and now, you know, it's fucking irking me and I'm saying, he's fucking me. Okay? He's gonna go away, fuck John, okay? Fuck you. Fuck Joe and, and, leave us in this mess. Well, I was telling Lisa, I said, Lisa, the veins are popping out of my head. I, I want to go up there and give him a fuckin' beating before he goes away and I got in my car. This is no bull shit.

JD: Tell me, yeah.

JL: I drove up on the Hutch. Okay? I got fuckin' fire in my eyes. I got off Purchase Street and I'm saying to myself, where's this gonna lead me to?

JD: Where you gonna go, jail?

JL: Yeah.

JD: For what?

JL: Exactly. Exactly. I, I made the left off the Hutch and, and came back down. 'Cause you know, I'm gonna get into more trouble...

JD: 'Cause if you knocked on the door, you would've carried out your plan. It's a good thing you didn't do that then.

JL: So uhm...

JD: Don't, don't put yourself in that position for him.

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JL: So. The one time that I talked to Sonny and uhm, I mean, I see him in the street. You know. I, you know, I don't even say hello to him.

JD: Yeah.

JL: Uhm. I don't know. I have a feeling he was fucking wired up so I says, your son made a three hundred thousand dollar profit.

JD: What'd he say to that?

JL: He went nothing. You know, Sonny plays very good stupid, ya know.

JD: Yeah, tell me about it.

JL: He plays very good stupid. You understand?

JD: Yeah.

JL: (UI) your son made three hundred thousand! And I says, he promised me something. He goes oh, that's not right, he goes, you know. I says, you saw what he did to this house. He did the construction. He did that. And on top of that, your son got balls to start a rumor against me I'm a fucking cokehead and he, and, and your son gave me a hundred thousand. Go back to your son and tell him he's a fucking liar. He never gave me a dime.

JD: Did he ever get back to you though?

JL: No. No.

JD: But how did he play it off? Like he didn't know a thing.

JL: Like he was stupid.

JD: Yeah, what are you talking about?

JL: And I said Sonny, do you remember the day I came up there? I said, you know Dominick promised me something. You know? That you were supposed to give it to me. Oh no. I know nothing about that and I

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never saw him again. You know, it, it just gets fucking worse and worse and worse and worse.

JD: I got a, I gotta tell you. You know what bothers me. Why would you think I would know about this? (UI).

JL: I figured, you know.

JD: No, it just bothers me. 'Cause like, you know, it's just stupid, no, whatever. It just (UI)

JL: No. No, no, no. No. And then I thought about that, that you would know something about this. Okay? To make some money.

JD: C'mon.

JL: Hey. It was no skin off my nose. Because I looked at the whole picture. John, not you personally, but I thought that uhm, okay. John owned the house. Dom's got the contents. I'm gonna put the claim through (UI) okay? He was gonna take care of me. You know? I had no fucking problem with that. You know? Uhm. I swear to God. I always thought that you knew everything was going on.

JD: He set me up dude.

JL: I didn't know that. I did...I didn't know that.

JD: Remember when I called you and asked you how much he got? Do you remember?

JL: Only after the fact.

JD: Yeah, but do you remember my voice? I was like, you kidding me?

JL: Yes. Yes.

JD: He told me fifty, you know how many checks he showed me? One. For twenty-five, thirty-five thousand. You know, he signed the checks and stole them.

JL: (UI)

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JD: 'Cause...

JL: (UI) a little one.

JD: It was a little one. You said, you knew that, right? He signed the checks.

JL: No, I didn't know he signed checks because the check never came my way.

JD: Oh.

JL: I just got one, I get a draft, okay? Uhm. Ah because the P.A. is called in, I, I get the draft after the fact that the check is sent out. I get what was paid out.

JD: I got you.

JL: You know. Uhm, but, in, in all your doings, okay? I thought that you and Joe and your wife and his wife and...

JD: (Chuckles)

JL: ...no really.

JD: No, I got you. Go ahead.

JL: Look. You were three best friends.

JD: From twenty years ago.

JL: Right. Right. But I figured, okay, you're, uhm. I didn't know that. I knew that then. Okay? It was a good picture. Okay, we were at Ciao's, we were at Napotano's (ph), we were out here. Everything was great. You know, so I thought everybody was involved and, you know, no big deal.

JD: Hmm, that's all right. Yeah.

JL: No. Not until after the fact, okay? That uhm, I found out about what he was doing to you. So I figured that, okay, whatever he did with you, you knew. Whatever he

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did with Joe, Joey knew. I didn't know that. I, I didn't know that then. I didn't know it.

JD: All right. No, I'm saying, I wish you had given me a warning back then. That, you know. Like, he, honestly, even Junior, you know what Junior said to me? He goes, uhm, when I spoke to him like a couple of nights ago, he said ah, he goes, you know, he goes, I know Dominick, I knew Dominick was gonna take money from you. He goes, I should've warned you.

JL: How did he know that?

JD: That's what he told, 'cause that's what he does for a living pal. What does Dominick DeVito do for a living? What does he do? Now I, now I know.

JL: Fuck people.

JD: Yeah, exactly. He bull shitted me that he's, he was doing contracting, you know, when he, when he asked me to lend him money. He had these homes. He showed 'em to me. You know, he got arrested. He said, can you help me? You know, I turned him down three times. Until this, you know what really got me? His mother asked me.

JL: His mother? Hmm. Sad.

JD: His mother.

JL: Sad. Sad.

JD: 'Cause I don't want to get involved with him and then I said all right, I'll help him. He gave me the sob story. He needed money for his attorneys. So I felt bad for him. You know, I got a wife and kids. So what, so what, so that appeals to someone like me. Guy's got a wife and kids. We're friends, let me help him.

JL: What happened to ah, that guy King? He left town. He got fucked too. The house.

JD: He's just unbelievable.

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JL: Now, my understanding is that he took these houses in your name, mortgaged them to the hilt, took the money.

JD: Well basically, yes. That's what he did to Joe. Bad. I mean, bad. To Joe. Bad.

JL: When I, I was goin' to my cousin's house in Purchase Estates and ah, I'm driving with my wife, what the fuck is that, there was a bulldozer in front of the mansion and they were building a house. What the fuck is that?

JD: You knew right then he was getting screwed, Joe.

JL: Yeah. Yeah. Well, I found out he, I think you told me.

JD: Hmm.

JL: That ah, on the lawyer had bought it.

JD: Yeah. Lou. Cherico.

JL: Right.

JD: Yeah.

JL: He's helping you out at all?

JD: No. Lou? He pretended to. He took me for money too.

JL: Really?

JD: Yeah. He, he's a wannabe mobster. Let's be honest. I mean, now I know, I know that. You know, he hated Dominick and that's why we ran to him to see if we can, he can help us somehow. You know? I mean, we're just looking to gather information and say like, hey, you know. Stay away from me. That's basically what I want. But you know then he passed threats through Dan Forbes. He passed threats to Dan, from Sherri to Dan Forbes to Joe to tell me and Joe that when he gets out, he's gonna kill us. His words were, he goes I'm gonna kill you and your family.

JL: I remember you telling me.

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JD: Yeah, nice. Nice guy.

JL: You know what's funny? That this whole year has been nothing but a fucking battle for me. He fucked me so bad with my company. I lost a tremendous amount of fucking commission. You know? I told you, okay? From before too, if you ever need me to do something or ah, you know. Uhm...I still have a lot of respect for you.

JD: No, I appreciate it.

JL: And...

JD: I don't know. Maybe I gotta set fire to my Scarsdale house (laughs). I got problems.

JL: With what?

JD: Money.

JL: The Scarsdale house is not even insured.

JD: Well, it's gonna be.

JL: Don't you have insurance on it with Chubb?

JD: You, you know, the...the truth is, I gotta ask my wife. I started panicking because we're finishing and I said, we got the appraisal on it now and I said, something happens to this house, at least I can get, you know, the money back, you know the carpenters are in there. The plumbers.

JL: But you knocked the house down.

JD: Yeah, we knocked the house down.

JL: What you should've done is build a builder's risk policy in course of construction.

JD: I wonder if Dee's insured? Well, what, what, did you get papers?

JL: No, 'cause I insure Dee.

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JD: You insured Dee huh? You got, you got the papers for me? For the Scarsdale house? Did you print something?

JL: I got no papers.

JD: I told you the other night. Do it for me.

JL: Do what?

JD: I said, do me a favor. I need insurance on my Scarsdale house. Start looking into it for me. That's what I told you. That's the real reason I wanted to come here today.

JL: Is that what you said?

JD: Yeah. All right. Get it, get it together for me?

JL: What do you need?

JD: I need insurance. Now what if I want to do something there? You can help me? If I want to put in a claim? Yeah? I mean, you gotta help me out, you know, I mean, I don't know what to do.

JL: Are you...did you ever cancel the insurance on that house?

JD: I don't know.

JL: With Chubb. You gotta find out.

JD: I, I gotta write these things down. I'll ask my wife.

JL: You gotta find out, because if Chubb comes, (UI)

JD: Really?

JL: Yeah. (UI)

JD: Well maybe they're not insuring this house, but maybe it's the old house. But it doesn't matter, right?

JL: The house they had the flood in the night I was there. That night I was there, with me, left with your babysitter, shoveling the water out and you, your wife

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and Dominick and Sherri went to the movies. Remember?  
Forty-three fifty?

JD: No, no, no, no. Eleven Grand Park, Scarsdale.

JL: Eleven Grand Park.

JD: Yeah, you know how I got the water in the basement?  
Because of shoddy workmanship he did in the backyard.

JL: When the water came in through the door?

JD: Yeah.

JL: Well I was there...

JD: Yeah, but that wasn't pipe damage. I don't think.

JL: Well, we wanted to make it a pipe damage.

JD: No, and I said no.

JL: All right.

JD: Remember I said to you? I said no way.

JL: Right. I remember water coming through it. The landslide, it was like a landslide in the backyard. And I was shoveling it while you and your wife went, went to the movies. No, you went out to dinner first and then you went to the movies. (UI)

JD: My wife. Antonella. Yeah, that's right.

(Pause)

UF: Good night John.

JL: Good night (UI). See you Monday.

UF: (UI)

JL: (UI)

(Pause)

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JL: John!

JD: Yeah.

JL: The only thing I have is Twenty-eight Brae Burn.

JD: Right.

JL: And...Forty-three Fifty Purchase Street.

JD: All right. So you gotta get one for ah, Scarsdale.

JL: But you had one.

JD: I didn't, you know, I don't know these things. That was my wife...

JL: You gotta check. Because you had it, I remember.

JD: I mean, that's like asking me what my Con Ed bill is every month. I mean, you know, I don't know those things. That's what my wife does.

JL: Cause I remember that you had a policy. Just ask your wife. Ask your wife, 'cause I remember you had a policy covering Park Drive.

JD: Mmm-hmm.

JL: Okay? Because I saw, because I saw the policy. Okay? It was in your garage. And I was looking at it under the light. You know, I was going like this, 'cause I remembered that you had a policy with Chubb. Okay. If you do that, it's a score (UI).

JD: Yeah?

JL: You know? Because like the first thing I would do is call uhm, I call Brent at EAB. (UI)

JD: Who's that?

JL: (UI) he's my, he's my go to guy.

JD: What is E-A-B? What's that?

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JL: Executive Adjustment Bureau.

JD: Oh, all right. I don't know all these things.

JL: (Clears throat) And ah, Lou from Crystal, what E-A-B does for me, matter of fact, we just had a big loss over here on Highland Avenue.

JD: Mmm-hmm.

JL: Uhm, I call him up, he goes there, he, he adjusts the claim. Uhm, and, and ah, he gets you the most money okay with Chubb.

JD: All right.

JL: I got no problem with it.

JD: All right.

JL: Uhm, but.

JD: Well I may be pushed to that, that limit. You know? I don't know. This guy's got my back against the wall. Unbelievable. You hear when he's getting out? Do you know? I really want to sell everything and just leave before he does. Well you know he's gonna come out and, and come after me.

JL: What's he gonna do?

JD: I don't know. But I mean...

JL: What's he gonna do?

JD: ...I mean he's obviously involved with these guys.

JL: He probably, you know? I don't even know what he's gonna do. I mean, (UI)

JD: Well he stole enough money so he's gonna, probably go somewhere else.

JL: He might pack up and move, go to Florida.

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JD: Supposedly I heard he bought a two million dollar house in Florida. Did you hear that? Yeah, huh. Unbelievable, huh?

JL: Even his wife, Sonny, everybody (UI)

JD: Wouldn't be so bad.

JL: (UI) that uhm, I heard that Patsy got word what he was doing and wasn't happy.

JD: Really?

JL: (UI) and Neil you know? Uhm. (UI) Patsy's brother.

JD: I heard he's like some black belt in karate or something? Junior actually said, he goes, you gotta be afraid of him.

JL: Yeah?

JD: Yeah, that's what he said. I don't know. I don't know these people.

JL: Well, what are they gonna do? Beat you up they're not gonna beat you up. You know?

JD: You know John, when I'm at, when I'm at work all day in an operating room, you know what the truth is? Honestly? I sit there thinking like, I call my wife like ten times a day. Just say, honey, how's it going? Are you okay? Are you okay? Ten times a day. You know? So as soon as I get out of like the O-R, 'cause you know, I can be stuck in an O-R for three hours and no one can really reach me. So, you know, it makes me panic. I don't know. You know, that when he gets out, now what am I gonna do? You don't think he's gonna try and do something against me?

JL: Nobody knows. Nobody knows what he's gonna do. He doesn't even know what he's gonna do.

JD: Well he knows what he's gonna do.

JL: There's nothing he can do. The damage is done already.

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JD: He obviously wants to do more. Put liens against me. Threatening me. Right? So he's not happy with what was done. You know? Obviously he wants more done.

JL: But there are more people after him than he's after people.

JD: You know, I hear that, but is that true? Who? Who's after him?

JL: An awful lot of people.

JD: Yeah.

JL: Small stuff, this stuff and big stuff.

JD: He's a mastermind at this stuff. Unbelievable. He's, he's like the devil. He just comes at you, makes you feel comfortable and meanwhile he's stabbing you in the back while he's calling you friend.

JL: Hmm.

JD: Isn't that what he did to you?

JL: A hundred percent.

JD: It's obviously what he did to me.

JL: Because Peter was telling me, uhm...

JD: Peter.

JL: ...and the lawyer.

JD: Oh, the lawyer. (UI)

JL: 'Cause when I seen him, he told me, he says, you know, uhm. He told me, he says, yeah. I heard the rumor about you.

JD: Oh, about the cocaine?

JL: Yeah. I'm like, how did this fuckin' guy hear?

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JD: They probably told him. You can't trust him. Get working on this for me. Please ah.

JL: You gotta find out, ask your wife.

JD: I'm gonna phone, I'm gonna tell her tonight, when, I'm going home now. I'm gonna ask her. If we still have a policy.

JL: It's eleven Park?

JD: Grand Park.

JL: Scarsdale?

JD: Scarsdale. Don't ask me what the zip code is.

JL: One-oh-five-eight-three.

JD: Yeah, that's it. Then I don't know, I'll, I'll see what we can do then. Unbelievable. He's just an idiot (chuckles). I don't know what this guy's malfunction is.

JL: I don't know either.

JD: How does he, you know what bothers me more than anything? How does he learn these scams? And if you put this much time into these scams, you can be doing something else, like productive. And the truth is, I, you know, he said to me, ah, I want to get away from these people. I'm done with them. He goes, I made my mistakes. I want to build.

JL: You know why?

JD: Yeah. Why?

JL: Because it's easy.

JD: Yeah, I guess it's easy money for him.

JL: Sure, He made ninety thousand dollars on a fuckin rug, it's easy money, ahm, he had this fuckin rug, ah I don't know, some kind of rug, (UI) ninety thousand dollars for a rug. Ninety thousand.

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JD: For a rug?

JL: For a rug.

JD: You know what I heard? Lou told me, uhm, the ah, his dining room table? He gave to the ah, to the insurance adjustor. As a payment.

JL: Yeah. Sure, everybody got paid off. Except me. (UI)

JD: And, yeah, you helped, helped him orchestrate it.

JL: Yeah, you gotta do this. You gotta do that. And, you know, ah, this. Everybody got paid off. Dan Forbes, the PA, Public Adjuster, the adjustor, not me, everybody except me, the guy who got fucked the most.

JD: And you got screwed in business.

JL: But I didn't know that, then. I knew it after (UI)

JD: Let me go. I gotta get going.

JL: I'll call you.

JD: All right. Let me know what's going on.

JL: You call me and let me know, if your wife doesn't have a Chubb policy with ah...

JD: I gotta, no, I gotta have some kind of insurance on it. I mean, God forbid, you know what the truth is too? I don't know if this, maybe this idiot knows and he'll burn the house down and I'm left with nothing. So don't say anything to anybody. 'Cause if I don't have any insurance.

JL: No, no. What's discussed between me and you...

JD: Is between us.

JL: Is between you and me.

JD: All right. I gotta run. I'll see you. All right, thanks.

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JL: (UI)

JD: See you John.

(Walking)

(Car door)

(Car radio)

(Driving)

(Car door)

(Walking)

JD: Oh boy.

(Car door)

(Movement)

MH: The time is now approximately four forty-six p.m. and the recorder is going to be turned off.

(END)